

SERVICE ANIMALS

Purpose: To establish the basic structure for the presence and accommodation of service animals on district property.

To ensure that individuals with disabilities (students, staff and visitors) are permitted to participate in and benefit from district programs, activities and services, and to ensure that the district does not discriminate on the basis of disability, the board will permit individuals with disabilities to use service animals in district buildings, on district property and ~~on~~ in vehicles that are owned, leased or controlled by the district in accordance with this policy and procedures and applicable state and federal laws and regulations.

Service animal means any animal individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual or other mental disability.

The work or tasks performed by a service animal will be directly related to the individual's disability. Examples of work or tasks include, but are not limited to, the following:

- assisting an individual who is visually impaired with navigation and other tasks
- alerting an individual who is deaf or hard of hearing to the presence of people or sounds
- pulling a wheelchair
- assisting an individual during a seizure
- alerting an individual to the presence of allergens
- retrieving items such as medicine or the telephone
- providing physical support and assistance with balance and stability to an individual with mobility disabilities
- helping a person with psychiatric and neurological disabilities by preventing or interrupting impulsive or destructive behaviors

The provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort or companionship does not constitute work or tasks for the purpose of this definition.

School administrators may inquire of the owner or handler of a service animal whether the animal is required because of a disability and the specific tasks that the animal has been trained to perform. ~~However, administrators nor staff but~~ However, administrators nor staff will not ask questions about the nature or extent of an individual's disability or require **medical** documentation, a special ID card or training documentation for the animal or ask that the animal demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task.

The service animal must be under the control of its handler at all times. The district may ask the individual to remove his/her animal from the premises if the animal is out of control and the handler does not take effective action to control it or if the animal is not housebroken. Additionally, if the presence of the animal poses a direct threat to the health or safety of others or would require a fundamental alteration to the service, program or activity of the district, the district may be able to exclude the service animal. The district is not responsible for the care and/or supervision of the

PAGE 2 - IMG - SERVICE ANIMALS

service animal. **The owner or handler of a service animal must annually submit documentation of vaccinations, immunizations and veterinarian certification of the health of the service animal.**

The superintendent or his/her designee will develop and disseminate procedures to implement this policy and accommodate individuals with disabilities requesting use of a service animal in district buildings and on district property and vehicles. A designated administrator will ensure that all individuals involved in a situation where a service animal will regularly accompany an individual with disabilities are informed of this policy and the procedures governing this issue.

Adopted 4/13/15

Legal references:

A. Federal Law:

1. American with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C.A. Section 12101, *et seq.* - Prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability by public entities.
2. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Improvement Act of 2004, 20 U.S.C.A. Section 1400, *et seq.*
3. Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, 29 U.S.C.A. Section 794.